

## Samuel Houston to Andrew Jackson, February 4, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Washington, February 4, 1827.

*Dear Genl.* , Your favor of the 5th Ult came to hand on the 2nd Inst, after being delayed some 10 Days, at last, when it reached me, seeing the post mark of Nashville on the letter I was about to tear off the envelope, but on looking at the superscription, I was satisfied that it was a forgery. I gave it back to the Post Master, with the seals unbroken, made him Seal it with wax, endorse upon it when it was recd., took it myself to the P. M. Genl. and in his presence broke the seals. *He* was satisfied, that it was a forgery.

He is determined to probe the matter to the bottom—so I *guess* , our post master will go over *board* .

The letter inclosed for Mr. Southard 1 I presented, on yesterday with a belief that a copy had been sent to him from Nashville, or that the original had been seen by him—for these reasons, first the envelope taken off at Nashville, a new one put on, Post marked, an attempt to counterfeit your hand writing, and then inclosed here, and sealed, dropped in the Post office—for it happened to come to me on a day when the *Western mail* did not arrive. These are my opinions and reasonable too, I think!

1 Vol. III., p. 329.

When the letter was presented Mr. S. read to where Mr. Welfords Name was mentioned, and remarked "The Genl. is under one mistake, for I never dined with Dr. Wallace at Mr. Welfords." I made no reply, when he read the letter I said to him "it was at *wine* drinking after dinner," he at first said Wallace was not there, but after some time seemed to think he

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had been. He stated that he "had talked to Wallace about you some hours at a Mr. Hooe's, and at Fredericksburg," but seemed to say that he doubted that Wallace was not to be trusted. He did not deny the fact charged; but said he wou'd reply to you, which I presume will be on tomorrow. I need not say to you that he was greatly embarrassed, for that he was there is no doubt. It was evident in his *countenance* . I approved highly your letter to him and have no doubt but your course is right, if any movement was to be taken in the matter.

The list of letters sent to you by Dr. Shelby's hand, was of all the letters recd. at the Dept from you. I now have a list of all on file in the Dept from you, For many are missing. Yours of the 16th Feby 1815 is not to the fore; I will search again for it, and take the list home with me.

I have other papers, which I woud send, but prefer to take them myself in person. The "*invelope* " I will take in my own care, and let you say whether or not, you write the superscription upon it. That will put matters at rest.

The Post master General has pursued a manly course, and will do it, at the hazard of his place! 2

2 John McLean, postmaster general under Adams, used his official position vigorously in opposition to him and in support of Jackson, but Adams refused to remove him.

Two days since we had some *sparring* in the Hall of Reprs. you will see by the inclosed Intelligencer that I was drawn into it to a small extent, but if I should get another opportunity, I will touch them in *another sort!*

The answer of Mr. S—will be taken by me to Nashville tho I may inclose you a copy. I do not know that it was necessary to retain a copy of yours to him as I presume you had done so: but to "make surety doubly sure," I took one, and had it compared by Judge White, and Maj Eaton.

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All matters move on here as I wou'd have them to do, if I had my wishes, in the way of putting down a corrupt aristocracy, who rely solely for power, on the influence of patronage! Desperation now seems to characterize every act of the *ministry* !

You will please accept my grateful acknowledgements, for your renewed expressions of confidence. Make my most respectful salutations to Mrs. Jackson, and say to her, that very many of her friends have commissioned me to present her with their best regards. Mrs. W's family, Col. Towson 3 and lady, amongst the first. Your friends make daily enquiries for your health, and express the warmest regard, and hopes [for the] *success* of pure principles.

3 Nathan Towson, colonel and paymaster-general U.S.A.

I am most truly your obt. servt. and friend